

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 797

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Stefanie Wittler upon being named Second Runner-Up to Miss America 2010.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those emerging community leaders who strive to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens while bringing beauty, grace, and purpose to all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative young lady is Stefanie Wittler of Soddy Daisy, who was named Second Runner-Up to Miss America 2010 on January 30<sup>th</sup> in the eighty-ninth annual Miss America Pageant held in Las Vegas; this is the highest rank attained by a Miss Tennessee since 2001; and

WHEREAS, Miss Wittler was also one of ten contestants chosen for the Miss America Quality of Life Award, which is the organization's recognition of outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, Miss Wittler was crowned Miss Tennessee 2009 on June 20, 2009, at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, following her victory in the State pageant, Stefanie Wittler became the official spokesperson for the Governor's Safe and Drug Free Tennessee Program, a role that she will continue to fulfill as Second Runner-Up to Miss America; and

WHEREAS, as Miss Tennessee, Miss Wittler also became the State Spokesperson for the five Ronald McDonald Houses in Tennessee and served as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network, assisting with various fundraisers to provide the means necessary to ensure proper medical care for Tennessee's children at the five participating Tennessee hospitals; and

WHEREAS, an honors graduate of Soddy Daisy High School, where she was a class officer, member of the student council, and the 2005 Soddy Daisy Junior Miss, Stefanie Wittler is currently a senior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where she is pursuing a degree in Communication; and

WHEREAS, an active volunteer since 1990, Stefanie has a special love for the Ronald McDonald House Charities, having been a two-time recipient of the Miss Tennessee Community Service Award for her many hours of service with the House that Love Built; she created and organized the "Ronald McDonald House Cheer-Off" and the "Ronald McDonald House Cruise-In for Kids" that, combined, raised over \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Big Red Shoe Award for her outstanding service and philanthropic efforts on behalf of the charity, Stefanie Wittler and her father Steven Wittler co-wrote and recorded the Ronald McDonald House theme-song, *The House the Angels Built*, in honor of RMH volunteers world-wide, with all proceeds from sales donated to the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for healthy and happy children, Stefanie Wittler has spoken to thousands of school children about making wise choices based on the "Think S.M.A.R.T." program she established, encouraging student to become involved in their schools and communities through athletics, music, and academic clubs, while staying away from drugs, alcohol, and violence; and

WHEREAS, Miss Wittler's pageant victory is a special source of pride for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Wittler, her family, her many friends, and the good people of Soddy Daisy who are deeply proud of this remarkable young lady and her many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Stefanie Wittler has attained excellence in many diverse fields of human endeavor at a young age, from scholastic achievements and community outreach to pageant competition, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Stefanie Wittler upon being named Second Runner-Up to Miss America 2010 and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.